

Subsidy on Janata Dhoties and Sarees

1493. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the weavers have been protesting against increasing prices of yarn and its shortage;

(b) if so, the action being taken by the government to contain this price rise and also to remove shortage;

(c) whether in view of the increased demand of 'Janata Dhoti' and 'Sari' by the public, the government propose to increase the amount of subsidy to the weavers manufacturing these items; and

(d) If so, the details thereof and the time by which this will be made effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Government has received complaints about hike in yarn prices but there are no reports of shortage of yarn.

(b) While there are no problems in the availability of hank yarn for production of cloth in the handloom sector, the hank yarn prices registered an increase during the past few months. In the wake of recent spurt in yarn prices, Central Government convened a meeting of major representative bodies of spinning industry in the country to impress upon them the need to follow moderation and maintain stability in prices of yarn. The spinning mill federations have agreed to supply hank yarn at pre-budget prices to the State handloom Agencies and the National Handloom Development Corporation for onward supply to weavers. Chief Ministers of States have been requested to monitor the production of yarn by cooperative/State sector mills, and to hold regular State level reviews at the level of Secretary in-charge of Textiles regarding supply, prices and distri-

bution of hank yarn. Chief Ministers have also been advised to impress upon the District Collectors to organise regular checking of the stocks and selling prices of yarn dealers in the districts with a view to prevent hoarding of yarn. Central Government on its part has issued directions to national Textile Corporation (NTC) to augment production of yarn of counts of 40s and below where the price rise has affected the handloom weavers the most. Government of India has also reviewed the export policy of cotton yarn even though it is of vital interest for maintaining balance of payment position. National Handloom Development Corporation has been directed to step up its yarn supply operations to handloom weavers and agencies in the States. Directions have been issued to Textile Commissioner to initiate checking of yarn dealers with a view to activate dehoarding operations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Inland Water Transport through Ganga between Allahabad and Calcutta

1494. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to promote inland water transport and trade through the Ganga river between Allahabad and Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the time by which the steamer service is likely to commence on this section of the river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Government have already declared the stretch between Allahabad and Haldia of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system as National